



CARIBOU-TARGHEE NATIONAL FOREST

PALISADES RANGER DISTRICT

IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO

2010

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS


PALISADES SHEEP ALLOTMENT

Siddoway Sheep Company

PLEASE CONTACT US PRIOR TO STOCKING THE ALLOTMENT

PERMIT INFORMATION

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Season of Use</u>	<u>Permitted Number</u>
Siddoway Sheep Company	6/28 to 9/16	1050 ewes/lambs

All sheep must be your owned livestock and branded with the brand **DX** or  as displayed in your Term Grazing permit:

GRAZING SCHEDULE

For the 2010 grazing season you will be authorized to graze Tie Canyon, Smokey Hollow and Green Knoll areas in conjunction with the Palisades Allotment. Following is the Operation plan for 2010:

Truck the sheep to Tie Canyon to unload.

The grazing sequence is:

<u>Sequence</u>	<u>Units</u>
Graze 1st	Tie Canyon
Graze 2nd	Fourth of July
Graze 3rd	Corral Canyon
Graze 4 th	Green Knoll
Graze 5th	Smokey Hollow
Graze 6 th	Mail Cabin
Graze 7 th	Hungry Creek
REST	Fogg Hill

After grazing Hungry Creek sheep at the Moose Creek Corrals. The ewes may be combined with one of your other bands to trail via the Palisades Sheep Driveway to Sheep Creek and off of the National Forest. You will be allowed four days trail time for this move.

ALL TRAIL TIME MUST OCCUR WITHIN YOUR PERMITTED SEASON.

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT

Management of the allotment in 2009 was accomplished at a high standard. Use intensity was light to moderate. Thirty percent of key forage species was the average grazing intensity in the uplands. Riparian areas were only used in locations where the sheep came down from the uplands to drink. In conjunction with the Palisades Allotment the band was authorized to graze the Smokey Hollow/Green Knoll area of the Dog Creek Allotment. By utilizing the additional range sheep use was distributed over a larger area. In most areas it was hard to detect that the sheep had passed through. We received positive comments regarding sheep grazing from summer trail riders as well as the Big Game Hunters in the fall. We appreciate you and your herder's management efforts during the 2009 season.

In 2009 the first confirmed sheep predation by a grizzly bear on the Palisades Ranger District occurred. Thirteen dead sheep located in the head of Corral Canyon were verified by Wildlife Services to have been killed by a grizzly bear. The thirteen sheep were killed over a period of six days. In an effort to stop the killing the sheep were moved from Corral Canyon (Palisades Creek Drainage) over the divide to Smokey Hollow in the Elk Creek Drainage. This move seemed to work as no more sheep were reported to have been killed by bear. The Elk Creek Units Smokey Hollow and Green Knoll will be available again this year if the sheep need to move to avoid grizzly predation.

PROPER USE CRITERIA

These utilization guidelines apply to native and desirable nonnative vegetation as recorded at the end of the grazing period.

The following rates for forage utilization apply to the total amount of forage utilized. The use rates include wildlife grazing as well as domestic livestock. Once proper use of the forage is met the sheep will be moved to the next unit or off of the allotment.

Upland Forage Utilization

<u>Vegetation type</u>	<u>Percent Utilization</u>
Herbaceous vegetation including grasses	55%
Shrubs (current year's growth)	35%

Riparian Forage Utilization and Stubble Height

Riparian shrubs (current year's growth)	30%
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Grasses/Sedges-A minimum of four inch (4") stubble heights will remain on key species along the Hydric Greenline (HGL) and a minimum of three inch (3") stubble heights will remain on key species in the Aquatic Influence Zones (AIZ). The HGL is located at the water's edge and the AIZ is area that is sub-irrigated by the stream.

Salting

No salt should be placed within ¼ mile of water, or as far from water as practical. Also salt should not be placed next to roadways or forest system trails. Utilize areas where salt grounds will create the least impact.

Herding

When grazing, allow the sheep to spread out and avoid excessive use of dogs to herd the sheep especially on the steep slopes of the allotment. Use "once over grazing" while on the forest. Sheep will not be allowed to shade up along stream banks. After they have watered the sheep will be eased away from the water to shade. Bringing sheep to water either early or late in the day seems to have less impact on streams than when the sheep come to water during the hot part of the day, as they tend to want to shade up along the stream at that time. Bed grounds will be used only one night during the grazing season. Move the sheep to a new bed ground each night. Do not bed sheep on system roads, trails, or in riparian areas.

Camps

If possible camp locations should be at least 50 feet away from creeks, trail heads, roads and trails. Please pack all trash out of the camps. Picket or highline any stock that will remain tied for long periods of time. Picket lines should not allow picketed stock to cross roads or trails. Any livestock feed brought on to the forest must be certified noxious weed free. Please be careful with your camp fires. Fires should be extinguished when not attended.

Disposal of Dead Livestock

Dead livestock should be moved at least 100 feet from system roads, system trails and water sources.

COORDINATION & COOPERATION

Noxious Weeds

The Palisades Ranger District will again have a crew treating weeds on the District this summer. Please pull or chop isolated weed plants that you encounter and notify us of any new weed infestations so they can be treated before they become a problem on the allotment. We appreciate your help in past years of control of noxious weeds. Please continue with your weed treatment on the allotment.

To reduce the threat of new weed infestations, **hay or straw brought on to the forest must be certified noxious weed free** and have the appropriate tags on the bales.

Gray Wolf Management

A portion of the Palisades Allotment lies within the State of Wyoming. Rules and regulations concerning wolf management may be different than Idaho. Please stay current with regulations and rules as they pertain to the individual State. You need to comply with the most current rules concerning wolf management. Any sightings or problems with wolves should be reported to Wildlife Services. They will inform you of the proper process. Contact names and phone numbers are included in this grazing folder.

Fire

All natural caused (lightening) wildfires occurring in backcountry areas of the Palisades District will be evaluated and the appropriate management actions will be taken. Some wildfires may be managed to improve forest and ecosystem health. We would appreciate notification of fires burning on National forest but please instruct your herders not to extinguish lightening caused fires. You will be notified if fires are being managed for resource benefits on or near your allotment.

Travel Management

We are continuing our enforcement of the travel plan. On the Palisades District motorized cross-country travel is not allowed. Grazing permittees may acquire a permit to travel by motor vehicle cross-country to maintain range improvements (fences & water developments). However there are no range improvements located on the Palisades Allotment, therefore no travel permit will be issued.

Allotment Monitoring

During management of the allotment this summer we would like you to document dates and livestock numbers as you enter and exit the various units. Also stubble height should be recorded as the sheep leave the units and general remarks pertaining to management of the unit. If you have a camera it would be good to take pictures. Photos should be taken of key areas of the unit at the time the sheep enter the unit and then again at the same locations at the time the sheep leave the unit.

Information

In addition to this grazing plan the folder contains: An allotment map, a page of general grazing instructions, information on wolf and Grizzly Bear identification, and Actual Use record. Please fill out the Actual Use Record and return it along with the folder to us at the end of the grazing season.

This Annual Operating Instruction Document is part of your Term Grazing Permit. If a situation develops that require changes to this plan contact the District Ranger and obtain approval prior to

initiating changes or deviating from these instructions. **Please review this plan with your herder so he is familiar with the specified requirements.**

If you have any questions about the plan or the allotment in general, contact us. The phone number for the Idaho Falls Office is 523-1412.

This plan has been reviewed by the permittee and the Palisades Ranger District and in combination with the permit and Allotment Management Plan will be the guide for this allotment for the 2010 grazing season.

/s/ J C Siddoway
Permittee

4/29/2010
Date

/s/ Ron D. Dickemore
RONALD D. DICKEMORE
District Ranger

4/29/2010
Date